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Letter dated 5 November 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that, as President of the Security Council for the month of November, the United Kingdom has scheduled a briefing on 13 November to hear from heads of police components, under the item "Peacekeeping operations".

In order to help steer the discussion on the subject, the United Kingdom has prepared the attached concept note (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the concept note attached could be c culated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Matthew **Rycroft**

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Annex to the letter dated 5 November 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Concept note for the Security Council briefing on the challenges of policing within a protection of civilians mandate, 13 November 2015

1. Introduction

As President of the Security Council for November, the United Kingdom will convene a briefing from the heads of police components of United Nations peacekeeping missions. This initiative will expand upon the first Council session ever dedicated to policing issues and the resolution on policing issues, championed by the Australian presidency on 20 November 2014.[1] The briefing will allow Council members an opportunity to explore the complex challenges faced by police commanders, individual police officers and specialist police teams or formed police units working within a protection of civilians mandate.

2. Background

The United Nations has been deploying police officers to peacekeeping operations since 1960, traditionally conducting monitoring, observing and reporting tasks. Since the early 1990s, that role has expanded to include mentoring and training functions that are vital to helping establish or restore the rule of law. This widening of the role reflects the importance given to policing during international efforts to maintain law and order in States transitioning from conflict to peace and stability. All United Nations peace operations today also have the obligation to "advocate the protection of civilians".[2] This added complexity has changed the way policing must be planned and implemented across the full spectrum of peacekeeping operations. Police are regularly at the forefront of engagement with the population, if not the first face of the United Nations, and initiatives such as community policing help to establish trust and understanding between the United Nations mission and the community it is protecting. This is one of the areas where increasing women's representation in police presences is crucial in order to ensure women's needs and perspectives, including survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, can be addressed.

Police play a central part in the protection of civilians mandate within a peacekeeping operation, in particular protection from physical violence and establishing a protection environment, including respect for the rule of law and human rights. Monitoring and reporting by police through patrols and observation provide an immediate deterrent effect, data to inform prevention and evidence to tackle impunity. Effective cooperation between police officers and rule of law, human rights, women and child protection actors supports the overall protection of civilians strategy.

[1] Resolution 2185 (2014).
[2] A/70/357-S/2015/682, para. 17.

3. Briefing from heads of police components

This briefing will allow the Security Council the rare opportunity to listen to the heads of police components of selected United Nations peacekeeping operations on their activities in the field, including the challenges they face in implementing their protection of civilians mandates. This briefing follows on from Security Council resolution 2185 (2014) and it is hoped that it will become an annual feature of the Council's calendar. The format will directly mirror that of the annual briefing from heads of military components. The three United Nations police commissioners briefing have been chosen because of the unique policing challenges within their missions. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations has also been invited to make a short presentation.

- **Overview and challenges facing United Nations police components**: Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations
- **Protection of civilians**: Police Commissioner of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan
- **Protection of civilians**: Police Commissioner of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **Protection of civilians**: Police Commissioner of the United Nations Mission in Liberia

Following these briefings, the floor will be opened to give Council members an opportunity to raise questions. The briefers will have the opportunity to respond.

4. Issues for consideration

Security Council members may wish to consider addressing the following issues in their remarks:

- **Protection of civilians**: What is unique about the contributions of United Nations police components and individual police officers to the protection of civilians? How do individual police officers work and coordinate with United Nations protection actors (the Office of the Assistant Secretary-General for Rule of Law and Security Institutions, Human Rights Officers, Gender Advisers and Child Protection and Women Protection Advisers) and how do they differentiate their roles with the civilians they encounter? What are examples of good practice of United Nations police using their comparative advantage and relationship with national police to strengthen the rule of law and human rights protection, such as ensuring prosecutions and improving security?
- **Command and control, and resourcing**: What challenges are faced in the context of command and control? Are police components correctly equipped and resourced to carry out their protection of civilians mandate?
- **Women police and community engagement**: What efforts are made to increase the number of women in police contingents, ensuring that they have the appropriate facilities and support? How closely do police units interact with communities, including women, to assess ongoing threats and required responses?
- **Training, skills and equipment**: What more can the Security Council do, including through scripting protection of civilians mandates, to help police in their difficult role? Do current training materials and policies provide sufficient

guidance for police officers on their protection of civilians role? Do current protection of civilians strategies clearly delineate the responsibilities of police officers? How is training for police on sexual and gender-based violence and child protection developed by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations being made available and applied?

5. Outcome

No Security Council product is foreseen.

6. Procedural aspects

As with the briefings from Force Commanders, the intention is for this meeting of the Security Council to be as interactive as possible. The briefers are expecting to respond to questions and Council members are similarly encouraged to engage in debate on those responses should they wish to. To that end, initial statements from Council members that are shorter than the suggested five minutes would facilitate subsequent interaction and allow time for more exchanges.